

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 18803 291251Z

41

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-05 LAB-01

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 CU-02 AGR-05 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 SS-15 NSC-05 SWF-01 /062 W

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P 291142Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8759

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 18803

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TH

SUBJ: FARMERS RALLY

REF: BANGKOK 18463

1. AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF DISAPPOINTMENT THE PREVIOUS WEEK, THE FARMERS MET BRIEFLY WITH PRIME MINISTER SANYA NOVEMBER 25, AND PRESENTED HIM WITH THEIR LIST OF DEMANDS. THE NEXT DAY, DEPUTY PM PRAKOP HUTASING ANNOUNCED THAT THE CABINET HAD RULED THAT THE RTG COULD NOT ACCEDE TO THESE DEMANDS BECAUSE THEY REQUIRED ACTIONS THAT ARE AGAINST THE LAW. THE FARMERS RESUBMITTED ESSENTIALLY THE SAME LIST OF DEMANDS NOVEMBER 28, AND THEN RETURNED TO SANAM LUANG TO BURN AN EFFIGY OF PRAKOP. THEY THREATENED UNSPECIFIED SERIOUS ACTION IF THE RTG DID NOT REPLY POSITIVELY TO THEIR DEMANDS BY 1700 HOURS LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY NOVEMBER 29.

2. THE FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT STUDENTS OF THAILAND (FIST) CONTINUES TO KEEP THE DEMONSTRATION ALIVE WITH FIERY RHETORIC. THE RTG HAS WARNED ONE STUDENT ACTIVIST AFFILIATED WITH FIST TO TONE DOWN HIS ATTACKS ON THE GOVERNMENT. WHILE THE PRESS HAS BEEN GIVING THE DEMONSTRATION MODERATE COVERAGE, THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE OF THAILAND HAS DEVOTED SEVERAL LONG BROADCASTS TO THE FARMERS' ACTIVITIES.

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 18803 291251Z

3. COMMENT: WE DO NOT EXPECT THE RTG TO MEET THE
ULTIMATUM DEADLINE. THE WONDER REMAINS THAT THE FARMERS
HAVE STUCK IT OUT THIS LONG. THE VERY DURATION OF THEIR
DEMONSTRATION COULD GIVE IT RENEWED CHANCES OF GAINING
PUBLIC SUPPORT OVER THE WEEKEND, BUT THE MORE LIKELY
COURSE IS THAT THE DEMONSTRATION WILL FIZZLE OUT.
MASTERS

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NNN

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